

Multnomah County's Public Health Modernization priorities focus on increasing infrastructure and cross-program work to strengthen all foundational capabilities and program areas. Our priorities emphasize maintaining ongoing emergency preparedness for multiple, simultaneous public health crises, including existing and emerging communicable disease and environmental health/climate threats and systemic racism.

Leadership and organizational competencies priorities include identifying and coordinating programmatic priorities and strategic plans, facilitating data-driven decision-making, and investing in workforce capacity. Key plans to bolster staffing include augmenting administrative, Human Resources, and project management support; strengthening specialty areas that intersect multiple programs; and cross-training staff within program areas to mitigate loss in niche functions when staff are deployed to emergency response. Similarly, Multnomah County will strengthen communications capacity within programs and place additional emphasis on emergency preparedness and climate adaptation. Assessment and epidemiology priorities include cross-program data system integration; enhancing program evaluation and quality improvement infrastructure; and centering community in all stages of data work. Community partnership development priorities include expanding diverse partnership staffing to further deepen authentic engagement of communities experiencing health inequities and building community ownership of their own health improvement. Infusing these assessment/epidemiology and community partnership priorities into all program areas is a key strategy to embed health equity and cultural responsiveness into all programs' day-to-day work.

Multnomah County is also the fiscal agent for a regional project that includes Clackamas, Washington, and Yamhill counties, and partners with the Indigenous Health Equity Institute and other community organizations. This partnership strengthens regional data access, public health response, and emergency preparedness for communicable disease and environmental health, while prioritizing community needs through a racial equity lens. Components include: 1) A Regional Data Mart to support high quality disease detection, response, and data-driven interventions. 2) Regional capacity building around data decolonization. 3) Regional emergency preparedness and responses programs, including regional communications capacity for BIPOC and non-English speaking communities across all-hazards.